

DETAILED ACTION

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

This version of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application

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Claim 7 has been canceled because it is identical to claim 5. See also the Appeal Brief dated 7/14/2006.

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1. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a computer system for bidding on auctions, the method comprising:
receiving at the computer system an indication of a plurality of auctions;
receiving at the computer system an indication of a bidding technique to apply to the indicated auctions; and
participating in some of the indicated auctions at the computer system in accordance with the indicated bidding technique, the bidding technique further comprising placing a bid at more than one of the plurality of auctions so that multiple bids are pending simultaneously and placing a bid at the auction with the lowest current bid whenever being outbid.

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2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 1 wherein the number of bids to place corresponds to the number of auctions that is desired to be won.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the bidding technique includes bidding at an auction only after winning another auction.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the bidding technique includes bidding at an auction until reaching a maximum bid and then bidding at multiple auctions so that multiple bids are pending simultaneously.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the bidding technique includes a combination of placing a bid at the auction with the lowest current bid whenever being outbid, bidding at a first auction until reaching a maximum bid and then bidding on a second auction, and bidding at a second auction only after winning a first auction.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the bidding technique includes not bidding on an auction when the current bid of that auction exceeds a maximum bid.
10. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for inputting multiple auction bidding requirements, the method comprising:
receiving at the computer system an indication of a plurality of auctions; and

receiving at the computer system an indication of a bidding technique to apply to the indicated auctions, the bidding technique further comprising placement of a bid at more than one of the plurality of auctions so that multiple bids are pending simultaneously and placement of a bid at the auction with the lowest current bid whenever being outbid.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 including receiving an indication of a maximum bid for an auction.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the bidding technique includes winning at most a certain number of the auctions at the lowest price.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the bidding technique includes bidding at an auction only after winning another auction.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the bidding technique includes, in response to winning an auction bidding, at multiple auctions so that multiple bids are pending simultaneously.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the bidding technique includes bidding at an auction only after losing another auction.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the bidding technique includes, in response to losing an auction, bidding at multiple auctions so that multiple bids are pending simultaneously.

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17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the bidding technique includes not bidding at an auction after winning another auction.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the bidding technique includes not bidding at an auction after losing another auction.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the bidding technique includes basing a decision to bid at an auction on whether a criterion is satisfied.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the criterion is based on results of another auction.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the criterion is based on status of another auction.
22. (Amended) A computer system for bidding on auctions, the system comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a bidding plan storage device;
 - a define bid component that receives a bidding plan that specifies to bid at multiple auctions that are simultaneously occurring and that stores the received bidding plan in the bidding plan storage device; and
 - a bidding engine that retrieves the bidding plan from the storage device and places bids at auctions in accordance with the bidding plan, the bidding plan further specifying to bid at the auction with the lowest current bid whenever being outbid.
23. (Canceled)

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24. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 22 wherein the bidding plan indicates to win at no more than a certain number of auctions.
25. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 22 wherein the bidding plan indicates to bid at an auction until reaching a maximum bid amount and then bidding at another auction.
26. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 22 wherein the bidding plan indicates to bid at an auction until reaching a maximum bid amount and then bidding at multiple auctions.
27. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 22 wherein the bidding plan indicates to, upon winning a certain number of auctions; bid at that certain number of other auctions.
28. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 22 wherein the bidding plan indicates to bid at an auction only if a condition relating to another auction is satisfied.
29. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 28 wherein the condition is winning the auction.
30. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 28 wherein the condition is losing the auction.

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31. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 28 wherein the condition is when the bidding at the auction exceeds a maximum price.
32. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 22 wherein the multiple auctions are conducted by different entities.
33. (Amended) A computer system for bidding on auctions, the system comprising:
means for receiving a bidding plan that specifies to bid at multiple auctions that are simultaneously occurring; and
means for placing bid on auctions in accordance with the bidding plan, the bidding plan further specifying to bid at the auction with the lowest current bid whenever being outbid.
34. (Canceled)
35. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 33 wherein the bidding plan indicates to bid at an auction only if a condition relating to another auction is satisfied.
36. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 35 wherein the condition is winning the auction.
37. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 35 wherein the condition is losing the auction.

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38. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 35 wherein the condition is when the bidding at the auction exceeds a maximum price.
39. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 33 wherein the multiple auctions are conducted by different entities.
40. (Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to bid at auctions, by a method comprising:
receiving an indication of a plurality of auctions;
receiving an indication of a bidding technique to apply to the indicated auctions; and
participating in some of the indicated auctions in accordance with the indicated bidding technique, the bidding technique further comprising placing a bid at more than one of the plurality of auctions so that multiple bids are pending simultaneously and placing a bid at the auction with the lowest current bid whenever being outbid.
41. (Canceled)
42. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the bidding technique indicates to bid at an auction only if a condition relating to another auction is satisfied.
43. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 42 wherein the condition is winning the auction.

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44. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 42 wherein the condition is losing the auction.
45. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 42 wherein the condition is when the bidding at the auction exceeds a maximum price.
46. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the plurality auctions are conducted by different entities.
47. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the plurality of auction are hosted by at least two different servers.

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Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Rajiv Patel on January 26, 2011.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art taken alone or in combination failed to teach or suggest :

participating in some of the indicated auctions at the computer system in accordance with the indicated bidding technique, the bidding technique further comprising placing a bid at more than one of the plurality of auctions so that multiple bids are pending simultaneously and placing a bid at the auction with the lowest current bid whenever

being outbid “ as recited in claim 1.

The prior art taken alone or in combination failed to teach or suggest :

“receiving at the computer system an indication of a bidding technique to apply to the indicated auctions, the bidding technique further comprising placement of a bid at more than one of the plurality of auctions so that multiple bids are pending simultaneously and placement of a bid at the auction with the lowest current bid whenever being outbid” as recited in claim 10.

The prior art taken alone or in combination failed to teach or suggest:

“a bidding engine that retrieves the bidding plan from the storage device and places bids at auctions in accordance with the bidding plan, the bidding plan further specifying to bid at the auction with the lowest current bid whenever being outbid” as recited in claim 22.

The prior art taken alone or in combination failed to teach or suggest :

“means for placing bid on auctions in accordance with the bidding plan, the bidding plan further specifying to bid at the auction with the lowest current bid whenever being outbid” as recited in claim 33.

The prior art taken alone or in combination failed to teach or suggest :

“participating in some of the indicated auctions in accordance with the indicated bidding technique, the bidding technique further comprising placing a bid at more than one of the

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plurality of auctions so that multiple bids are pending simultaneously and placing a bid at the auction with the lowest current bid whenever being outbid” as recited in independent claim 40.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frantzy Poinvil whose telephone number is (571) 272-6797. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00AM to 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

**/Frantzy Poinvil/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3691**

/FP/

January 26, 2011